

Alliteration

Teacher Preparation

Like most teachers, Kenisha found that a small part of her always seemed to be in her classroom. Therefore, she wasn't surprised when she and her family sat down at a sports-themed restaurant one Saturday afternoon, and she immediately thought of her English Language Arts class. The kids' menu was exactly what she needed to help her students understand the value of alliteration in real-life writing. She was thrilled over this winning combination! The menu featured:

No Doggin' Hot Dogs
No Foul French Fries
Milk for Muscles
Nothin' But Net Noodles
Overtime Onion Rings
Jammin' Juices

The manager was happy to give her a stack of the paper menus that she could use in her classroom. When she returned to school, she gathered poster board and markers, divided the class into groups of three, and reviewed her idea.

Activity Starter

First, Kenisha introduced the concept of figurative language to her students, and she shared samples of alliteration from poetry that was popular with her class. She then gave them copies of the restaurant menu that she had come across Saturday, and she used it as an example of alliteration in action. Once she was comfortable that they all understood the concept, she moved on to an interesting application of it.

She challenged the students to invent a restaurant anywhere in the world, give it a name, and produce a menu using alliteration in each item. To accomplish this, Kenisha grouped the students into Think, Pair, Share triads. She gave each cluster a sheet of poster board and several markers. Students were to write eight food items and two drink items and decorate their menu with a theme appropriate to the restaurant they had invented.

After about forty-five minutes of work time, students shared their products with each other. These were then labeled with a definition of alliteration and posted in the hallway for everyone to enjoy.